

CITY OF BELEN REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

June 6, 2016

6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Jerah Cordova called the Regular Meeting of the Belen City Council to order at 6:00 P.M. Roll call taken by Leona Vigil, City Manager/City Clerk.

PRESENT:
Councilor Frank Ortega
Mayor Pro-Tem Darleen Aragon
Mayor Jerah Cordova
Councilor David Carter
Councilor Wayne Gallegos

CITY MANAGER/ Leona Vigil, CMC

CITY CLERK:

REPORTER: Clara Garcia, VC News Bulletin

OTHERS: See attached sign-in sheet

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Jerah Cordova led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda. He commented that there had been a request to amend the agenda. Items # 8 & 9 were switched around. Mayor Cordova asked for a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the agenda as amended. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for an approval of the minutes dated May 16, 2016. Councilor David Carter commented that the minutes did not contain Communications from the Council. Mayor and Council were advised that there had been a glitch in the system that should be corrected within the next few days. David Carter moved to table the minutes until Communications from the Council were included. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

PUBLIC COMMENT 3 MINUTE PRESENTATIONS:

There was no Public Comment.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

An executive session to discuss limited personnel matters referencing the Police Chief position, as allowed per the Open Meetings Act Section 10-15-1 (H-2)

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to enter into executive session. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a second Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to re-enter into an open meeting from a closed Meeting. Councilor Frank Ortega so moved. Councilor Wayne Gallegos seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for attestation that discussion was limited to discussions of personnel matters referencing the Police Chief position, as allowed per the Open Meetings Act Section 10-15-1 (H-2) and no action was taken. Councilor Wayne Gallegos so moved. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

Approval or Disapproval of the General Obligation Bonds Ordinance: John Archuleta/ Daniel Alsup

John Archuleta addressed the Mayor and Council he advised them that the bid opening had been held at 11:00 a.m. on June 6, 2016. He provided a summary of the Market Update. The City of Belen received an A+ rating with a stable outlook from Standard & Poors. 3 bids were received Hilltop Securities (2.31%), Robert W. Baird (2.398%), and UPS Financial (2.75%). The bid was awarded to Hilltop Securities. Daniel Alsup addressed the Mayor and Council. He provided the updated version of the ordinance. Discussion was held. Councilor David Carter noted that the original ordinance listed Bank of Albuquerque and the ordinance presented tonight listed Wells Fargo Bank. Mr. Alsup, stated that usually Bank of Albuquerque is the bank used for this type of bonds, but since the City of Belen already has an established relationship with Wells Fargo, they decided to go with them. Mill Levy, property taxes, assessed valuation, interest payments and principal payments were discussed. Bond proceeds will be available July 20, 2016. A follow up meeting will be scheduled with Mayor Cordova and Leona Vigil, City Manager, to process the closing documents and acquire required signatures. A copy of the updated ordinance and the Market Summary are attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve the ordinance as presented. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve the ordinance. Councilor Frank Ortega seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

Approval or Disapproval of inventory-Auction Items Ashley Horton-Perez

Ashley Horton-Perez addressed the Mayor and Council. She explained that she is in the process of creating/updating the City of Belen's inventory. The existing inventory is in a binder, separated by department, and available for review. She stated that she had contacted all the Department Heads and reviewed the existing inventory. They are working together to update the list, they are also compiling a list of previously auctioned items. An update will follow. At this time she advised the Mayor and Council that she had an operational riding lawnmower (bent front axle) ready to be auctioned. Councilor Wayne Gallegos reminded Ms. Horton-Perez that damaged items needed to be accounted for, and an explanation of the end results should be noted. Councilor Frank Ortega asked if the proceeds from the auctions are added to the general fund. Ms. Horton-Perez stated that they are credited to the appropriate department. Councilor David Carter mentioned

that any items that were purchased with Federal dollars would have to be accounted for separately, as any money collected would have to be returned to the funding source. Roseann Peralta, Finance Director stated that she would oversee that the proceeds are accurately accounted for. Councilor Gallegos also commented that the pictures provided showed some damage to a wall on the west side of the “old rec center” building. He asked Ms. Horton-Perez to address it as soon as possible to avoid weather damage from the impending monsoon season. She assured him that she would take care of it.

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to approve or disapprove the auction Item. Councilor Wayne Gallegos motioned to approve auction items. Councilor Darleen Aragon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

Approval or Disapproval of the appointment of Police Chief

Mayor Jerah Cordova took the opportunity to explain to the audience the process that had been followed to arrive at the appointment of the Police Chief. He stated that the applications for Chief of Police had been screened and processed. Several interviews were conducted and the list was narrowed down to the top three candidates, a second interview was scheduled. However, only two of the candidates interviewed. (The 3rd candidate declined the interview, he decided to stay at his current position). The second interview panel consisted of the original panel along with a number of local citizens. Based on the second interview, Mayor Cordova nominated Scott Conner as Chief of Police. Mr. Conner was invited to address the Mayor, Council and audience. He stated that he had 19 yrs. experience he served on the police force in Roswell, he served as the Police Chief and Sheriff for DeBaca County in Ft Sumner, he holds an executive level certification with the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy, has a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminology from ENMU, is a member of the New Mexico Sheriffs Association and the FBI Law Enforcement Development Association. Mayor Cordova stated that negotiations had been held and agreed upon. He then asked for a motion to approve the appointment. Councilor Frank Ortega motioned to approve the Appointment. Councilor David Carter seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

DISCUSSION:

911 JPA REGIONAL DISPATCH: Shirley Valdez-Aaron Chavez

Ms. Shirley Valdez addressed the Mayor and Council, she then introduced Aaron Chavez. Aaron presented the amended JPA for discussion. Aaron handed out an updated budget for review. Discussion was held. Mayor Cordova commented that he was not clear on the amendments to the JPA, the 2 page document that they had provided was a bit vague. Mr. Chavez then provided an in depth version of the document. Councilor David Carter questioned if the City of Belen would be recouping any of the monies spent on remodeling the existing location. Mr. Chavez and Ms. Valdez stated that they would look into it, but reminded the Mayor and Council that they had been housed by the Village of Los Lunas rent free. She said that for the past 2-3 yrs. she had paid 2% of the electrical bill. Mayor and Council advised Ms. Valdez that they would review the JPA and would be prepared to act on it at the June 20· 2016 meeting. Councilor Wayne Gallegos discussed the debt service, the GRT's, operational costs etc. Councilor Gallegos suggested that the 911 Advisory Board be required to submit periodic updates along with and an annual report. Ms. Valdez stated that they would provide the requested information. A copy of the amended JPA and Updated budget reports are attached hereto and made an integral part of these minutes by reference.

RECOGNITION OF CITIZENS AND VOLUNTEERS: Mayor Jerah Cordova

Mayor Cordova addressed the Council and expressed an interest in acquiring ideas regarding recognition of the Citizens of Belen. He stated that the Belen Main Street Project and the Chamber of Commerce do a good job on recognizing the citizens. But he was interested in hearing ideas from the Council. He commented that former Mayor Ronnie Torres had implemented the "Star of Belen" where citizen's names are engraved on a plaque and placed on a star in the gazebo. He also mentioned the "Heart of Belen Park". He said there are several ways of recognizing the citizens such as street names, parks and buildings, He mentioned that he would like to explore ideas on ways to recognize Triny "Pito Pito" Baca and Jan Johnson. They were two well-known members of the community. He wants to look into naming Main Street as Triny Baca Memorial Hwy. Councilor Frank Ortega suggested erecting a bronze statue of Triny. Mayor Cordova mentioned that the RSVP is considering naming the park in Triny's honor. Councilor Wayne Gallegos stated that since we already had something in place we should just expound on it. He said "let's reignite the fire that we all had, let's get moving in the right direction." He said it's very important to acknowledge and appreciate all the citizens and volunteers. Darleen Aragon first expressed her condolences to the families and mentioned that she knew firsthand how memorable the Star of Belen is. She said it is a very special time for the family to get together and commemorate their loved ones. She also suggested dedicating a bench to Triny at the Corazon de Belen Park. Steve Eichwald asked permission to interject and stated that he has heard that in some cities the Mayor will proclaim "The Youth of The Year Award." He stated that this practice encourages the youth by providing recognition and encouragement. Mayor Cordova thanked everyone for their input and stated that all avenues will be explored.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

City Manager's Report: Leona Vigil

Ms. Vigil began her report by thanking the Mayor and Council for their condolences, during the passing of her father, Bonifacio Lopez. She expressed a "Special Thank You" to Dale Tafoya, Public Works Director, Lorenzo Carrillo, HR Director and Rose Mary Sandoval, Administrative Assistant for handling the issues and concerns that came up during her absence.

She reported that she would be working one of the polls for the primary election on June 7, 2016.

She reported that the Employee Retreat held on May 24th was very well received. She said several employees commended her and thanked her for taking the time to address them. There has been a lot of open communication. 84 employees attended this event.

She is currently working on updating the organizational chart.

Councilman Frank Ortega expressed his condolences and thanked Ms. Vigil for her dedication and devotion. He commented that she was a very strong woman.

Communication from City Council

David Carter reported:

He attended the High School Graduation on May 17.

He, Leona and Roseann sat in on a "Bond Rating" Conference Call. City of Belen received an A+ rating from Standard & Poors.

He is still working on the Dennis Chavez Elementary Sewer lines. He anticipates money will be released in July.

Last day of school was May 25th. Summer Program started June 6, 2016.

Wayne Gallegos reported:

He met with some citizens that are requesting a "Bowl" at the skate park. They stated that we had a really good skate park but the "bowl" needed some work. He said he will be looking for a grant to meet this need.

He reported that there was a MRGCOG meeting on May 16th, relating to the Aragon Project. John Best, City Engineer attended this meeting. Councilor Gallegos stated that some projects are getting pushed further back by the State. The State is anticipating up to a four year wait before funding becomes available. He wants to look into making some budget adjustments to start working on Aragon because of infrastructure, liability and safety issues. Some residents have reported that their homes are cracking because of all the traffic and the poor condition of that road.

He stated that he has received several complaints from residents on East Aragon. There has been a lot of semi-truck activity around 2:00-3:00 a.m. disturbing the peace. He requested that P & Z review this situation to see if parking is allowed there and if it is not he wants signs posted to that effect.

He met with some volunteers at the Harvey House, they had a few concerns, and would like to schedule a meeting with the City Manager. A meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks.

He has been working with the Belen Schools on the MOU.

He attended the May 30th Memorial Day Services at Terrace Grove. It said that it was well attended.

He attended several funeral services during the past week.

The Belen Fiestas is being planned for August.

Darlene Aragon reported:

She had attended several funerals within the last few days. She attended Triny Baca's, Jan Johnson's and Bonificio Lopez' funerals.

She too was on board regarding the reenactment of the "Star of Belen" practice that is in place. She said she knows firsthand how special these stars are for the families.

Frank Ortega reported:

He and Councilor Gallegos are on the board for the Fiestas. He discussed the need for signs & banners. He spoke with Dale Tafoya to let him know the signs need to be up by July 15th.

He requested an RFP for the painting of the Harvey House to commence in July.

Mayor Jerah Cordova reported:

He met with MRGCOG; discussions were held regarding Rio Metro Issues and Budgets. He shared with Steve Tomita, Economic Development that Rio Metro is planning to build a training facility. There might be interest in the Belen or Rio Communities area.

He attended a NMDOT meeting, unfortunately they did not attend.

He met with the 911Regional Dispatch Board on May 27th. The Revised JPA was reviewed and amended. The meeting was very productive. He wants assurance that all the perimeters are being met.

He attended a memorial reception for Jan Johnson, and the rosary for Bonificio Lopez.

He attended a community forum in Tome with Valencia County Commissioners. Discussion was held on moving forward with the hospital. He feels that they are very close in reaching an agreement.

He attended a meeting on May 31st with a group from Socorro County (just past our county line). They are in the process of establishing a farm. They are aware that they are out of our jurisdiction but still wanted to discuss some issues.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mayor Jerah Cordova asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Regular City Council Meeting. Councilor David Carter motioned to adjourn. Councilor Darleen Argon seconds the motion. Roll Call Vote:

Councilor Frank Ortega	Yes	
Councilor David Carter	Yes	
Councilor Darleen Aragon	Yes	
Councilor Wayne Gallegos	Yes	Motion Carries

Jerah Cordova, Mayor

Leona Vigil, City Clerk, CMC

